

"Extract from Entry from Marquis ITO's Diary, 17 July 40"

At 1:00 P.M. a meeting to select the new premier was held and attended by President of the Privy Council HARA and former "romiers" KATSUKI, CHIBA, HIRATA, KAYASHI, YANO and MIYAZAKI. Their free opinions were requested.

President HARA asked the true reason why the YONAI Cabinet had to resign, and the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal outlined roughly that the Army thought the present Cabinet was incapable of carrying out satisfactorily foreign policy under present changing world conditions. He also said that the Army seemed to have expressed its intention of political approach with Germany and Italy, and its opinion was that the government was unable to obtain satisfactory results in carrying out internal policies, as it was separated from the public. The Army's ideas were quite different from those of the Cabinet, and the Cabinet was unable to control it.

KATSUKI first spoke and recommended Prince CONYE as the most suitable person for the next premier. HARA, HIRATA, KAYASHI and YANO supported KATSUKI's suggestion.

Prince CONYE, saying that he is not fit for the post, wished to recommend someone who was closer to the military. To this suggestion, the Lord Privy Seal stated that the military leaders seemed to be overwhelmingly in support of Prince CONYE.

Baron MIYAZAKI regretted the bad old custom by which the Cabinet fell because of the War Minister's resignation. In principle a Cabinet should be able to continue by finding itself a successor to the post of War Minister, but since it became customary to depend upon the recommendation of the three Chief Military Officers it resulted in the present undesirable state of affairs.

Mr. HIRATA supported Prince CONYE's appointment for there was no person better fitted than him. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

The Chief Secretary of the Lord Privy Seal was dispatched to Prince SAKI to obtain his opinion on the above decision, but as, in addition to being ill, he was also uninformed of the recent political

condition, he regretted his inability to give a definite opinion. Under these circumstances, Prince MUNCYE was recommended to his Majesty and was accepted.

Prince MUNCYE was called to the Palace by His Majesty and an Imperial mandate was issued to him at 8:00 P.M.

The Prince expressed his idea that today he was going to ask the War Minister to pick a successor who could cooperate with the Navy, and also the Navy Minister to pick one who could work smoothly with the Army. When these two Ministers have made their decisions, he would add a Foreign Minister. After confirming cooperation regarding national defence and diplomacy between the Navy and Army, and also between the Supreme Command and politics, he would then commence selection of other Cabinet members.

At 8:45 P.M., I was received in audience again and then Prince MUNCYE's intention was reported to him. His Majesty was quite content.

DOC 1632W(40)

EXTRACT FROM ENTRY FROM MARQUIS KIDO'S DIARY, 12 Sept. 1940.

12th September, 1940 - (Extract)

Prince KONOYE met me before and after being received in audience with the Emperor and told me the following:

Stahmer arrived recently from Germany and met Foreign Minister MATSUOKA three times, trying to make proposals to conclude a military alliance. When this was discussed at the Four Ministers' Conference, the Army immediately agreed, while the navy wished to study it and is going to hold a liaison conference within several days. As the situation does not permit holding meetings for twenty or thirty times, a decision must be made somehow or other.

not used.

Dec 16. 32 W (40)

木戸侯爵日記

昭和二年九月十二日分

九月十二日(木)

午前十時出勤

午後武官室宣傳事務官事務次長会議室
ノ旨語アリ承諾ス

十一時武官室ト議事室ヨリツキニテ
言田元藏氏來室面談

秋山房司長來室面談

三時近衛首領の内野謙、高橋ニ面談ス左ノ
御承諾アリ

遠近地乙ヨリスター1マ1來朝既ニ於國外
ト三國會見ス失敗事等同盟ヲ含ム事無アリ

國外會議ニテ協議シタルニ上手ハ直ニ同謀
シタルモ誤解ハ否完シタシトノコトニテ微

日中ニ過橋會議ト申ク信アリ今度ハ眞子同
ノ會議ヲ重スル計ニハ行カスノテ何トカ候

是シナクテハナラスト恐フ云々

午後七時北白川宮邸ニ御内正門の前ノ門ニ

ツキ釋體ス

Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary

1 February (Saturday) /1941/

Fine.

Went to the office at 10 A. M., and spoke with Premier KONOYE. Prince KUSHIMI, Chief of the Naval General Staff, Premier KONOYE and SUGIYAMA, Chief of the Army General Staff came to the Palace together. They were received in audience by His Majesty and reported in outline to the Emperor the policy towards French Indo-China and Thailand decided at the Liaison Conference between Imperial Headquarters and the government on 30 January. It is a new precedent for the Chiefs of Staff, and the Premier to be received in audience by His Majesty and to report at the same time. Up to the present important decisions of the Liaison Conferences have been reported to the Throne at Imperial Conferences, and other decisions individually by the government and Imperial Headquarters. However, this time as an intermediate way both parties have presented a report to the Throne at the same time. I was told that in this connection the Premier proposed that an Imperial Conference be held, but as the broad principle had already been approved by the Emperor, they asked Him in this way. At 10:10 the Chief Aide-de-Camp visited me and spoke approximately as follows:-

Re the general principle of the policy towards French Indo-China and Thailand:

The purpose of this plan is to establish the leading position of the Empire in French Indo-China and Thailand by utilizing the opportunity presented by their having accepted our arbitration, in order to contribute to the preparation for the Southward policy. The Navy aims to use Camranh Bay and the air bases near SAIGON. But as this cannot be stated openly it has been decided to represent the action taken as aimed at the preservation of trade and communications, and security against war between French Indo-China and Thailand. In case military force is to be used to attain the objective, it has been decided to ask the further approval of the Emperor.

At 11:30 Prince KONOYE came to my office after having been received in audience by His Majesty and we talked about policies and other matters.

At noon Foreign Minister MATSUOKA came to my office after having been received in audience by the Emperor, and spoke approximately as follows:

When the broad policy towards French Indo-China and Thailand was decided, the Army planned to limit the time to the end of March, but he had opposed it as being impossible, and had made the Army cancel it. He intends to conduct future diplomacy on the following lines as reported today to the Emperor. It is assumed that the liaison conference on the third will decide on the plan which he will take with him on his visit to Germany and Soviet Russia. He will shortly visit Germany and find out the actual state of German policy towards Britain from Hl/T. V. HITLER, R I /T. W. RIBBENTROP/ and others, and he will make full arrangements with them. At the same time he would like to adjust our relations with the Soviet Union and to contrive a general peace with China by the end of April. Then he intends to concentrate our whole strength toward the South. Without a solution of the Southern question, no real solution of the China Incident can be attained; therefore the Southern question is an important one, one on which the nations fate hangs. For this reason, he continued, it would be necessary to bring about a state of things which would enable the whole energy of the nation to be concentrated on it. And so forth.

At 7:30 P. M. Mr. Genki ABE, called on me and we talked.

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Extract from Entry from Marquis KIDD's Diary

13th March 1942

I went to the office at 10.00 a.m.

At 3 o'clock the Imperial Household Minister came to the office and told me about Eden's address in Parliament concerning our soldiers' atrocities at Hong Kong, and we exchanged opinions.

1986

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Extract from Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary

21st May 1942

Chief aile-de-camp came to my room and related to me about the manner in which the American POWs taken in the /T.N. Doolittle/ air raid were dealt with.

not used
"Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary, 20 July 1944"

20 July, Thursday. Cloudy and fine.

At 8 A.M. Mr. HIROSE, and at 8:30 Mr. FUJIYAMA, Aichiire called on me and gave me information.

Chief Secretary MATSUDAIRA called on me at 9 and reported the views of each senior statesman. General ABE telephoned me that he could not agree.

From 10:55 to 11:23 I was received in audience by the Emperor and reported in detail the plan for the coalition with YONAI whereupon the plan was accepted. Came home at noon. Accompanied EMIKO and CHIKAYOSHI to Tokyo Station on my way to the Palace. Was received in audience from 2:55 to 3:20.

Conference of Senior Statesmen reconvened at 4, and I fully explained the development regarding the coalition. General ABE also revoked his disapproval.

At 4:15 Governor-General KOISO arrived from Korea and immediately came to the Palace. I explained in detail the political situation leading to the resignation en bloc.

I was received in audience from 4:50 to 4:58 and reported to the Throne until I asked his Majesty to summon KOISO and YONAI.

General KOISO and Admiral YONAI were received in audience at the Imperial Study at 5:10. His Maj' sty gave his message, "SUBJECTS, form a cabinet in cooperation", telling them to observe the text of the Constitution, and to handle the affairs so as not to irritate the Soviet in order that the Greater East Asia War might be accomplished.

As it was also General KOISO's wish, at 5:30 I took the General and the Admiral to ^{a place} where the senior statesmen were meeting and brought them together.

I was received in audience from 5:50 to 6:05. Prince KONOYE came to my office at 6:10 and we had a talk. At 7:30 General KOISO called on me at my home and told me about his discussion with Premier TOJO and Chief of Army General Staff UMEZU.

Ex 1298

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KIDO's DIARY

10 August, 1940 (Sat.) (Cloudy - rainy).
Went to the office at eleven.
At 11:30 conferred with chief Aide-de-Camp re the progress of the campaign against the Chungking regime since the last time.
At 1:45 was received in audience.
The Emperor told me what he and Prince FUSHIMI, Chief of the Navy General Staff, had talked about when they dined together. The Prince said that the Navy at present wishes to avoid the use of force against the Netherlands Indies and Singapore; and that, since at least eight months will be required for preparation after a decision for war is made, the later war comes the better.
Withdrawing from the Imperial presence at 2:35, I returned home immediately. As Mr. HARAADA had informed me by telephone of young Mrs. HOSOKAWA's critical illness, I returned to Tokyo with TSURUKO by the 4:19 train.
After supper went to the HOSOKAWA residence with TSURUKO for a visit. The invalid was in a serious condition and was already unconscious, so bidding eternal farewell we returned home at 9:00.
At 10:18 in the evening a message came from Marquis HOSOKAWA that his young wife had died. It is a pity.

木戸侯日記ヨリ、抜革

一九四〇年／昭和十五年／八月十日

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八月十日(二) 雲雨

十一時出勤

十一時半 戦官長ト重慶工作、其後、経緯ニキ會議深入
 一時四十五分 洋謁休見軍令部總長、官上御食会
 1際、即詰ニキ御詰アリ 總長官ハ現在海軍トシテ
 八蘭印シシカ木ル等ニ付シ武力行使ニ出ソルハ避ケ
 ヲク戰爭、次意テナシテヨリ少アモ準備二ヶ月ヲ
 要スルが故ニ戰爭ハハベク遲半程宣シテ、御詰アリ

二時三十五分御前ヲ退下直ニ歸宅

原田君ヨリ電話ニテ細川若夫人重能志ト、電話アリシ
 故四時十九分電車ニテ鶴子同伴歸京入
 夕食後七時半 鶴子ト細川即テ見舞ノ危篤、狀態
 ニテ既ニ意識ナリ、亦詰ス九時歸宅
 夜十時十八分若夫人逝去、旨細川侯ヨリ通知シ未化
 気、毒アリ

RETRN TO 200 COPY

(Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary for 12 December 1938)

Dec. 12, 1938, Monday - Fair

At 10 A.M. I attended a meeting of the Onium Committee held at my official residence.

At 2 P.M. I was visited by Mr. KATO, Satoratsu, who told me of the situation in Manchuria.

At 3 P.M. I visited the Premier at his private residence at/ Ogikubo. He said that neither the army stragager, already being devised, was very reliable, nor the situation in various quarters was very satisfactory. The situation was, as it is called, at a deadlock. The Premier, then, consulted me about his intention to resign, taking advantage of the long-term construction having already been started. I replied that I could hardly agree to the Premier's opinion immediately, and said that the most responsible person at present was the War Minister who has dispatched an army of 1,600,000 strong overseas, and therefore the resignation of the Premier without complete understanding and consent by the War Minister would bring the latter to bay which would be undesirable in view of the Premier's relations with Lt. General ITAGAKI. Furthermore, I told him that it was reported that "ANG CHAO-MING, on the 18th, would escape from Chungking, and for the present it was not good to disclose any political unrest in our country. "Wishing to consult the War Minister myself, I asked the Premier to leave the matter to me. The Premier finally consented.

At 6 P.M. held a dinner party at Restaurant Kinsui. The guests, ten in all, were my old schoolmates of the Piers School, including NAGAYO, SATAKE and NAGAOYA.

No.2

Doc 1632-AQ

其主張ナライ、ノウカヌ即ト戯フコトニナラ見ルト兵力カ足リナリ思レヒ
カツテ滿韓國境ヨリ廻ルハト云ウテモリシハ古來ナイト云フ様ナツト
トウカ(今日ニ迄)ナツテシミラタトノ御話アリタリ

昨日陸軍大臣トモ話テ見タクカ重慶工作モカ初參ヘラモニ
中ミ進ミスコナフヘ四軍糧會見、場所其他ノコトヲ提案シテ居
ルニ先方ハ之ニハ答ヘズ大張ケ長沙ヲ主張シテ居ルフウケ 陸軍大
臣ハ若シ此工作が失敗シタラ猶已ニ頼ムヨリニテルクロウトノコトカアフタ
本國カラモ云リテ居ルか之ハ内政的ニミ種々御難ガアリ、コナラノ高
讓ウラ餘儀ナウセラルニトナリテアラウカラ拒絶ス積ムリト申シテ
居タ之ハ外相同様、主見シテ居クシウタ 陸軍部内ミソウ云フ、忙況
ナリテシヨウソウノ氣分ニ駆ラシテ何カ不測ノコトアモ起テナシムヨ
カト話テ居タモ御話アワフ

二時半松平官長ヨリ電話アリ東京、状況ヲ聽ク

四時歸宅

五時 宗堯氏來訪 新体制ニ關スル政黨側、勧向軍務
局方面ノ見解ヲ聽ク 陸相ニハ最初ハ軍隊中將、論相當
ニアリシハ昨今ハ阿角一色ニナレリトノコトナリ

七時半松平、成勲來訪 軽井澤ニ近衛公ヲ訪問シテ降
話ヲ聽ク、時頃考究東京ヨリ来ル

No. 1

Nov 1632 - 00

木戸侯日記 十一の後篇

一九四〇年/昭和十五年/七月十一日 木 晴後雨

朝食前海岸を散歩。十時半以降東京に來着。十一時出勤。
十一時十分御召より午前中海岸へ御下り。晝、水着、御
三行御召ロキ游~~タ~~ル。御氣季ニテ田方山、御召アリ十三時二十五分三段ヘ。
近衛公、新体制、問題、其後、翌日御召奉り向左、右干
要旨、御召モアリ。

一、英國ハ接特化一月賃食料方申入拒絶シ未ルテナリカト田心シ
其昌合香港領金トヨトヨ吉局宣戰ト云フコトナリテハナ
イカニ。ソウシハ米國ハカクヒ工心ト、チ段ニホルガロト、御
管事ニシテ故万一口斯事能トリニタル合ハ、我國ハ十三分、研究ト
十二分、沙宣ヨリ以テ立上ニ付寧アリト考ヘテノトニ國民三十分
管事トシテナリテハナリニテノスカラ手續等至序ニテ大
本管事公議御前會議等尤勿慎重ニ致シテ先、本事
ニ引摺ラル事トニテノ様致サルハニヨセハ奉合ス。又支那事
ニテ在如御戒裏アリ。先日清高事件、起テテ前件ノカ
トウニ支那ハ接局戰ハシシニ日本ニ思ヒシタクガ而一面、清高ト
ニ備ハシシニヨシウニ支那ハ一應のサガスル、外カウト田心ニ
實ニカムヤカ、問題ト云フニシテ居テ御長官ト奉目ヲ招其
矣ハシカレ音ナシトコロ清高事ハ付、津浦ハ心配ハリナリ即
万一千戦津ナリ。二月付ト云ノ事ナニ意味、合申アリ
テ其、清高ナリシタ。利考ヘテ「宋人近衛」云御前會議
ニテ御内之ヲヨウカト思ヒシテ、清高事反付ハ駄目ナリ
キ事ニ云々見タロウカハテ事ハ駄目カタガリシテ、

(Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary for 11 July 1940)

July 11, Thursday, Fair, later Rain.

Before breakfast, went for a walk on the sea-shore.

At 10:30, EMIKO arrived from Tokyo. At 11:00 attended the office. At 11:10, I was received in audience by His Majesty. In the same plain clothes he wore this morning while walking on the beach, His Majesty talked on general subjects till 12:35 in an open and unreserved manner. He asked me how Prince KONOYE's New System problem was coming along. Further, he expressed his views, the substance of which was as follows:

1. "I am inclined to think that Britain will reject our proposal for closing the "Aid-Chiang Route". In such case, will not the occupation of Hongkong become necessary, and result in the declaration of war? If so, the U.S.A. would probably resort at least to embargo measures."

To these words, I replied: "In case such a situation comes about, I believe it is not only necessary for our nation to rise up with deep consideration and a full determination, but it also requires a firm resolution on the part of our people. Therefore, the matter should be handled very prudently by the Liaison Conference of the Imperial General Headquarters and the Imperial Conference so that we do not become involved in incidents which may occur abroad."

His Majesty also stated regarding the China Incident as follows: "Before the Marco-Polo Bridge Incident happened, I felt a war with China was inevitable. However, I thought it absolutely necessary to compromise with her for the time being because of the need of defense against Soviet Russia on the other hand. As the Kamchatka problem was at that time an issue, I called the Imperial Prince, who was Chief of the Army General Staff and the War Minister to ask for their views on this matter. Their answer was something to the effect that as far as the Army is concerned, there is no need for worry about preparations against Soviet Russia and that a war with China, if it occurs, could be brought to an end within two or three months. Consequently, my idea was left unrealized. My intention was to, after consulting KONOYE, hold an Imperial Conference in order to make a final decision on the matter, but I feared such a conference would end in failure if the Army is opposed to my idea. This is why I talked with the military heads in advance, but the result was unsatisfactory as I have already said. Such was their assertion, and that assertion would be justified if they stuck to it, but once the war began with China, they instantly suffered lack in military force, and yet when I advised venturing the transfer of troops from the Soviet-Manchukuo border, they replied they could not. Thus, the present condition of the situation was created."

His Majesty continued to talk as follows:
"I talked with the War Minister yesterday. According to him, the Chungking operations are not progressing as smoothly as we had expected at first, and to our four proposals, including the place of meeting, they have not answered, but I hear they still insist on Changsha. The War Minister said that in case this scheme should fail, they should ask for mediation by Germany. He added that he had already received an offer from the U.S.A., which he intends to reject for fear of the various influences on internal politics and the concessions we will be forced to make. He said that the Minister of Foreign Affairs is of the same opinion. Such being the case, he expressed his hope that the feeling of unrest within the army would not cause its personnel to stir up unpleasant incidents."

Such was the Emperor's talk.

At 2:30 Chief Secretary MATSUDAIRA telephoned to inform me of the situation in Tokyo.

At 4:00, returned home.

At 5:00, Mr. KANEMITSU visited me. I heard from him about the movements of the political parties regarding the New Organization as well as the opinion of the Military Affairs Bureau. According to him, there was considerable voice for Lieutenant General TOJO as War Minister at first but at present all favor only ANAMI.

At 7:30 MATSUI, Seikun visited and told me about the conversation between him and Prince KONOYE, whom he had visited at Karuizawa.

At about 8:00 TAKAHICO came from Tokyo.

1052-RR

不产候日記 三月三十

一九四〇年陪都三月三十日(五) 晴

午前九時摺達上面一次

十時去勸業十時半至十二時三十五分返

下午不产官連總會議決定軍械實行三項大政，即軍械

想即漏泄相成外，政府陸軍海軍三者何以定

軍械，實行軍事，考中國不有政府，則人民即不能

有首相，又那事君？軍械是付于人民，人民不能有首相

只此關及那占领地威權縮小，軍械付于人民，人民

不能操，又那事君？不成功，則國民不能有首相，人民

不能振，向來考之，不外

陸軍、海軍、機械、又那事君？其憲兵、海軍、機械、軍械

考之，上云考之

海軍、又那事君？解說是不有三者，則國民不能有首相

乃有三者，上云考之，國民不能有首相。

一時武官長來宣旨，昨日內總長官上，狀是平定

下

一時半下條總裁未歸，面談

二時半退去

四時是松君來訪，面談

天子臣子乃有，方有國君，方有君，前晚發食，其三人

(Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary for 30 July 1940)

Fair July 30 (Tues.)

Talked personally with Mr. Suridate at 9 A.M.

Went to the office at 10. Had audience with the Emperor from 10:10 to 11:35.

Regarding the execution of the plan decided upon in the Imperial Headquarters Liaison Conference, the Emperor expressed his opinion as follows:

"It seems to me that the Government, the Army and the Navy, respectively, have different opinions about the execution of the plan. Premier KONOYE seems to consider that the China Incident will not be settled easily, and favors advancing to the South at the cost of the reduction of the occupation area in China. In other words, he seems to be trying to divert the people's dissatisfaction, arising from the unsuccessful China Incident, to the South. The Army seems intending to advance to the South upon a good opportunity, leaving the China Incident as it is now. The Navy's opinion seems to be that unless the China Incident is first settled, we should not resort to force in the South."

At 1P.M. the Chief Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty came to my room and told me what both Imperial Princes, the Chiefs of the Army and Navy General Staffs reported to the Throne.

At 1:30 P.M. President SHIMOTO came to my office and we talked. He left at 2:30.

At 4 P.M. Mr. KOREATSU came and talked.

EMIKO came back to Tokyo from Zushi.

MORIO called on me and we had dinner together.

IPS DOC. NO. 1632 VV

EXCERPT FROM KIDO'S DIARY

August 16, 1938. Tuesday

Attended Cabinet meeting 10 A.M. Heard from Foreign Minister UGAKI report on the five Minister's Conference which was continued the previous meeting.

Attended the meeting of Councillors. Went to work in my office at 2 o'clock.

Doc. # 1632-111

木戸侯日記

一九三八年八月十六日 月ノ夜

八月十六日 大 晴

午前十時閣議、玄蕃、宇垣外相、前會、三井、

五相會議、報告、

參議、會合三出席

二時本省三玄蕃